

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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P R 051202Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

S E C R E T MANAMA 0527

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : MARR, 56)

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS

REFERENCE : MANAMA 0510

1. IN MAY 4 WEEKLY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION, SENSE OF PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION ON MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE DID NOT COME UP.

2. MAY 5 I DISCUSSED MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH DEVELOPMENT MINISTER SHIRAWI, JUST BACK FROM FEW DAYS IN KUWAIT. I STRESSED WITH HIM POINTS I HAD MADE TO FOREIGN MINISTER MAY 1 ABOUT ADVANTAGES TO BOTH U.S. AND GOB OF EXPEDITIOUSLY CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS FORMALLY.

3. SHIRAWI PROFESSED TO AGREE GENERALLY WITH THIS POSITION, IMPLYING HIS FEELING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHERS IN CABINET PERHAPS OVERESTIMATE INTENSITY AND BREADTH OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPPOSITION TO STATIONING AGREEMENT. HIS REMARKS CONFIRMED FOREIGN MINISTER'S EXPLANATION THAT CABINET'S PROBLEM OF COMPLETING NEGOTIATIONS IS TACTICAL IN NATURE. HE NOTED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER SEEMED PARTICULARLY UNEASY ABOUT GETTING HIMSELF IN POSITION IN WHICH HE FIRST CONCLUDES NEGOTIATIONS WITH USG AND THEN SUBSEQUENTLY UNDER DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES ONCE AGAIN MUST GIVE NOTICE THAT AGREEMENT MUST BE TERMINATED. SHIRAWI NOTED FOREIGN MINISTER WISHED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE US-BAHRAINI RELATIONS

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AND TO MINIMIZE USG'S UNHAPPINESS SHOULD IT EVER BE NECESSARY

FOR NAVY TO LEAVE. I STRESSED THAT WHILE USG UNDERSTOOD THAT OVER LONG-TERM MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE SUBJECT TO GOB'S VIEWS OF ITS NATIONAL INTEREST IN CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, WASHINGTON RATHER AT LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT ADVANTAGE GOB DERIVED FROM DELAYING CONCLUSION OF PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH CONTAIN UNDERSTANDINGS SUPPORTIVE OF GOB'S POLICY OF RETAINING MIDDLE EAST FORCE.

4. SHIRAWI HINTED HE WOULD PRESS OUR CASE IN THIS WEEK'S CABINET MEETING BUT WARNED THAT CABINET IS NERVOUS ABOUT PARLIAMENTARY REACTION AND INCLINED TO PROCEED WITH GREAT CAUTION.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS THIS MESSAGE TO DEPDEF, CNO, CINCUSNAVEUR AND COMIDEASTFOR.

TWINAM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ADDRESSEES INDICATED PARA 5.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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